

An application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was submitted to the Nebraska Game Commission in September, 1968, for the development of Firth Lake Recreation Area. The Fund is composed of 50 per cent Federal Grant, 25 per cent State Grant and 25 per cent local fund. It was informed in November, 1968, that no fund was appropriated to the Village for fiscal year 1970 due to limited amount of the Fund. However, the approval of this application is anticipated for fiscal year 1971.

Illustration 16 entitled Park and Recreation Plan shows the proposed playlots, playfield, playground, neighborhood park, and the general layout of the new community park. The section of County road 395 east of Russell Street needs to be elevated, and a bridge be built. The Lancaster County Road Department has scheduled these improvements in 1969. If this project is successfully completed, the potential of attracting tourists and commuters will be greatly increased in the years to come.

#### SCHOOL FACILITIES

The grade school in the Village belongs to the Norris School District No. 160 which consists of grades 1 through 4 in Roca; grades 1 through 6 in Panama; Kindergarten through 6 in Firth; Kindergarten and grades 7 through 8 in Hickman; Kindergarten and grades 9 through 12 in Cortland. The District was accredited "A" by the State Board of Education on June 21, 1965.

"The District became effective in June, 1964, and it encompasses approximately 200 square miles with an assessed valuation of over \$12,600,000. Enrollment was 500 elementary, 141 junior high and 228 senior high students. Illustration 17 entitled School District shows the exact boundary of the school district.

A bond issue in the amount of \$1,990,000 was approved on April 18, 1967, to build a consolidated school plant which is located on the northeast corner of a 160 acre site formerly known as the Gertsch farm, about three miles northwest of Firth.

The Consolidated plan will consist of an Elementary School Building and a Junior-Senior High School Building. The Elementary School (K-6) will have two kindergartens and four classrooms per grade ultimately. Initial construction will omit a four classroom wing on this building which is to be constructed as the need or additional space arises. This building will accommodate 720 students initially and 800 ultimately.

The Junior-Senior High School is designed to offer ultimately a complete curriculum for grades 7 through 12, including academics, science, art, shop, vocational and physical education. The initial building is projected to handle 500 students with expansion capable of housing 1000.\*\*

---

\*Information from the office of Superintendent of Schools.

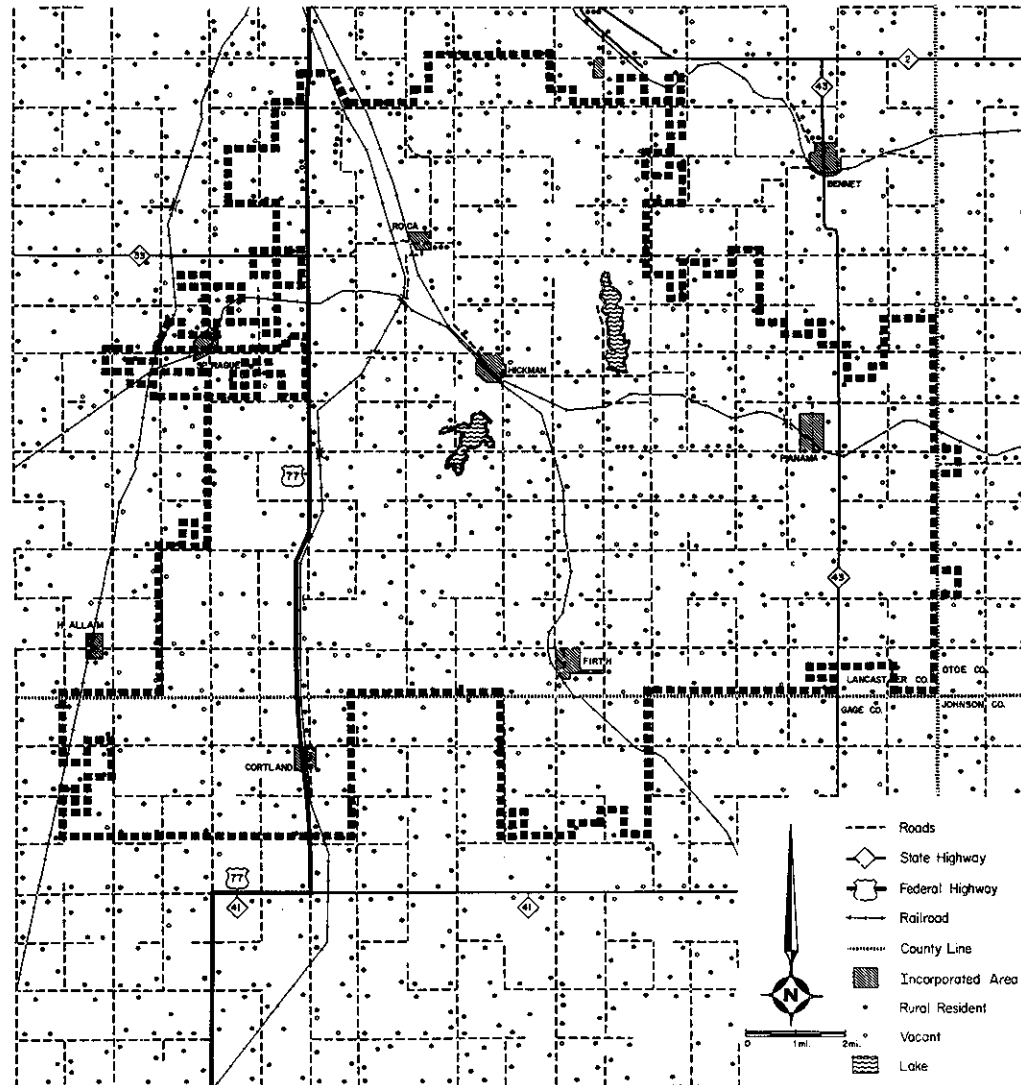
Prepared by:  
 Division of State and Urban Affairs  
 Nebraska Department of Economic Development

# SCHOOL DISTRICT

Illustration 17

URBAN PLANNING GRANT Project No. Neb. P-40

The preparation of this map was financed in part through an urban planning assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



The initial construction will be completed by September, 1969, and the five school buildings in Firth, Hickman, Roca, Panama, and Cortland will be closed. These new school buildings, when completed, will be quite adequate to serve the school children in Firth for the Planning Period.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

##### Existing Public Buildings

City Hall - There is no City Hall in Firth. The Village Board has its regular meetings conducted in the Firth State Bank. The Planning Commission meetings and other public activities were usually held in the Legion Hall which is located at First and May Streets. The Legion Hall was built in 1903 and has a dimension of 35 feet by 50 feet. It has tables and chairs for public meetings, and a kitchenette at the rear to prepare coffee and refreshments for the social meetings. The building is in poor condition, and the heating and lighting fixtures are very much outdated.

Fire Hall - It is located at Third and Nemaha Streets, and has a dimension of 25 feet by 30 feet. The building was constructed in 1959, and is in very good condition. There are two fire trucks, 15 voluntary firemen in the Village and 15 rural area voluntary firemen. They have fire drills once or twice a year. Illustration 18 entitled Fire District shows

the area where the Firth voluntary fire department will respond in case of fire. The fire district encompasses an area of about 44 square miles.

Police Station - The Village of Firth does not have a police station. The Lancaster County sheriffs are responsible for the Village's law enforcement. The County sheriffs visit the Village once every day, and will respond to calls in case of emergency. The jail was built in 1910, and is located next to the fire hall. The jail facility is seldom used since most of the arrests are confined in the County Jail in Lincoln.

County Maintenance Shop - It is located at May Street and County road 395. This is the only County building in the Village, and it has a dimension of 25 feet by 35 feet. The building is in sound condition and is used for the storage of road maintenance equipment.

Post Office - The post office is located at Third and Nemaha Streets west of the bank. It was constructed in 1915, and was used as a drug store, tavern and bakery. In 1947, the building was converted into the present post office. It is a third class post office, and according to the postmaster, the present facility will not be adequate for the next 20 years. The following are the post office